



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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# **Hampton officials assessing tornado damage**

In the wake of a tornado that blew through several Hampton neighborhoods Friday night, Hampton city staff is out assessing damage.

National Weather Service officials have confirmed that it was a tornado that hit Hampton. It was first spotted in Portsmouth and traveled across the water to Hampton between Wythe and downtown. It then skipped over Mercury Boulevard with wind speeds around 85 mph in the East Hampton area around Boxwood Street.

The areas hardest hit included the downtown area and the neighborhoods of Merrimac Shores and Park Place and East Hampton, where strong winds felled trees and power lines, blew out windows and scattered debris. Police are urging people to stay away from those areas unless they live there.

Friday there were more than 5,000 homes without power, but that number has dropped to less than 2,000. Dominion Power crews will be out working today. A Dominion official told the city that Dominion Power has pulled in crews from across Hampton Roads and is hopeful that power can be restored to all or most by midnight tonight.

There have been no reports of serious injury. City officials are now on the ground assessing structure and property damage.

The city's Emergency Operations Center is open, and we will be issuing more details as we have time to assess them.

Pirate Festival organizers have been cleaning up damage all night and are back this morning. A canopy over the stage at Mill Point Park was blown off, but the stage itself does not appear damaged. Crews are cleaning up downtown and assessing damage. Organizers are hopeful they will be able to open the festival at 2 p.m., as long as the area is deemed safe.

Additional details are being posted to the city's Facebook (Hampton VA) and Twitter feed

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